



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 13, No. 9

September 2001

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.5 Percent in August

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined for the first time since February. The unemployment rate fell 0.8 of a percentage point to 4.5 percent in August from July's estimate of 5.3 percent. A year ago August, the unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. The number of employed Rhode Island residents declined by 1,900 over the month, while the number of unemployed was down by 4,400. Nationally, the unemployment rate for August rose 0.4 of a percentage point to 4.9 percent, its highest level since September 1997. Rhode Island's unemployment rate dipped below the national figure for the first time since April.

"The unemployment rate took an unusual drop in August primarily due to a large reduction in the labor force," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "After five months of steady increases, the unemployment rate fell to 4.5 percent, reflecting declines in both the number of employed and unemployed Rhode Island residents."

Rhode Island Job Highlights – (Over the Year, Unadjusted Figures)

In August, 478,900 workers were employed in Rhode Island, an increase of 4,000 jobs over the year. Services reported the most substantial employment growth, adding 2,300 jobs. Contract Construction and Trade reflected increases of 1,600 and 1,100 jobs, respectively.

Nearly all industry components in the Services sector experienced annual growth with the largest gain noted in Health Services. Employment in Health Services was up by 1,000 over the year, accounting for nearly half of the increase reported in the Services sector. Contract Construction payrolls rose by 1,600 due mainly to increased employment in Special Trade Contractors (+1,100). Within the Trade sector, the largest increases occurred in Wholesale-Nondurable Goods (+500), Furniture and Fixtures (+400), and General Merchandise Stores. (+300).
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netWORKri Announces Extended Hours at Two Locations!

Providence netWORKri Center

220 Elmwood Avenue

222-3606

Open Wednesdays until 7:00

and Saturdays 9 to Noon

Starting Wednesday, October 3rd

Pawtucket netWORKri Center

175 Main Street

722-3100

Open Tuesdays until 7:00

and Saturdays 9 to Noon

Starting Tuesday, October 2nd

JUST WHAT JOB SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS NEED!

Resource Rooms with FREE Internet access, fax, copy machines, nationwide job listings, career information and telephones for job search activities. Professional staff will be available to help you prepare a resume and post it to the Internet!

Centers are available to employers and businesses to post jobs locally and nationally, access labor market information, or utilize our spacious rooms for your next job recruitment...at no cost to your business! Staff will be on-site to help you with your business needs.

No appointments necessary!

Providence netWORKri Job Fair a Smashing Success

Thursday, September 13, 2001 was an eventful day for area businesses and job seekers alike! Over 800 people from all job disciplines visited the netWORKri office at 220 Elmwood Avenue from 1:00-6:00pm. They were not disappointed as 31 companies were in attendance and prepared to discuss employment opportunities with their respective organizations. Resumes were collected and, if a job seeker was in need of a resume, a netWORKri official was available to assist them. (Continued on Page 4)

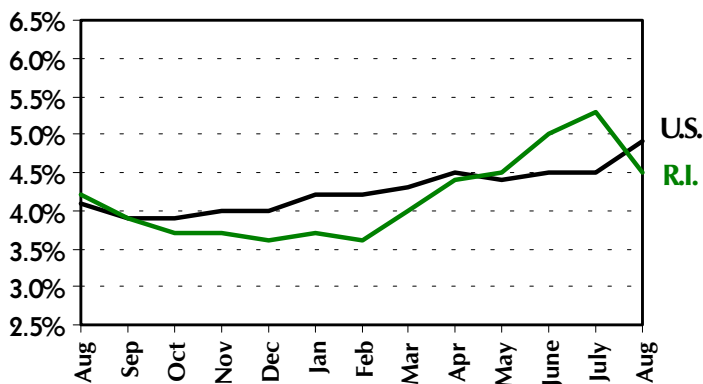
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Aug 01*	Jul 01*	Aug 00	Aug 01*	Jul 01*	Aug 00
Civilian Labor Force	509.9	516.0	510.9	503.0	509.3	504.0
Resident Employment	487.0	488.9	490.0	480.3	482.2	482.9
Unemployment	22.9	27.0	20.9	22.7	27.1	21.0
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	5.2%	4.1%	4.5%	5.3%	4.2%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Aug 01*	Jul 01*	Aug 00	Aug 01*	Jul 01*	Aug 00
Civilian Labor Force	141,862	143,181	141,425	141,350	141,774	140,724
Resident Employment	134,905	136,385	135,601	134,393	135,379	134,939
Unemployment	6,956	6,797	5,824	6,957	6,395	5,785
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.7%	4.1%	4.9%	4.5%	4.1%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2000 - 2001



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Aug 01*	Aug 00
Barrington	2.8	2.6
Bristol	2.9	3.5
Burrillville	4.5	4.0
Central Falls	8.0	6.2
Charlestown	5.3	4.6
Coventry	4.6	4.7
Cranston	4.1	4.0
Cumberland	4.8	3.4
East Greenwich	4.0	3.2
East Providence	4.6	4.7
Exeter	3.9	3.6
Foster	5.9	5.0
Glocester	3.3	3.3
Hopkinton	3.2	2.6
Jamestown	3.0	3.0
Johnston	4.5	4.5
Lincoln	4.5	4.2
Little Compton	1.9	1.8
Middletown	3.3	3.1
Narragansett	2.0	1.9
New Shoreham	1.4	0.9
Newport	2.6	2.8
North Kingstown	3.2	3.0
North Providence	4.1	3.9
North Smithfield	3.4	3.7
Pawtucket	6.0	4.7
Portsmouth	2.5	2.8
Providence	6.6	5.5
Richmond	1.7	1.9
Scituate	4.4	4.1
Smithfield	3.8	4.1
South Kingstown	3.0	2.9
Tiverton	4.1	4.0
Warren	4.0	4.1
Warwick	3.8	4.0
West Greenwich	4.7	4.2
West Warwick	4.5	4.4
Westerly	3.1	2.6
Woonsocket	6.2	4.5
State of R.I.	4.5	4.1

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Aug	Jul	Aug	% Change		Year to Date		
	2001	2001	2000	Jul 01	Aug 00	2001	2000	% Change
Initial Claims	5,543	8,056	5,015	-31.2%	10.5%	63,334	57,710	9.7%
Number of Payments	54,754	62,607	44,692	-12.5%	22.5%	441,702	402,483	9.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.9	\$16.7	\$10.1	-11.2%	47.0%	\$122.5	\$97.4	25.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,121	1,168	944	-4.0%	18.8%	8,668	8,793	-1.4%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$301.3	\$286.4	\$295.5	5.2%	2.0%			

*Based on expanded household survey sample.

Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

Labor Market Information, Phone (401)462-8740, Fax: (401)462-8766, www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

Employers and Jobseekers

LMI has some great tools for
you to obtain information on:

- ◆ Occupational Wage Rates
- ◆ Employers by Area and Industry
- ◆ Growing Industries
- ◆ Educational Program Providers and Completers
- ◆ Per Capita and Median Income
- ◆ Economic Trends
- ◆ Future Occupational Employment Outlook
- ◆ Skills/Abilities/Knowledge for a Specific Occupational Category
- ◆ Area Profiles
- ◆ Links to Related Information on the Internet

And More!

Visit our User Friendly Interactive Web Sites:

For Jobseekers and Students:
www.dlt.state.ri.us/jobseeker

For Business and Research:
www.dlt.state.ri.us/analyzer

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Aug 01	Jul 01	Aug 00	Jul 01	Aug 00
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	478.9	475.0	474.9	3900	4000
GOODS PRODUCING	92.1	87.8	92.4	4300	-300
Contract Construction	21.5	21.5	19.9	-----	1600
Manufacturing	70.6	66.3	72.5	4300	-1900
SERVICE PRODUCING	386.8	387.2	382.5	-400	4300
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.7	16.9	15.7	-200	1000
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	112.8	113.0	111.7	-200	1100
Wholesale	20.9	20.9	20.8	-----	100
Durables◆	12.8	12.9	13.2	-100	-400
Nondurables◆	8.1	8.0	7.6	100	500
Retail	91.9	92.1	90.9	-200	1000
Building & Garden Supplies◆	2.4	2.3	2.3	100	100
General Merchandise	7.5	7.4	7.2	100	300
Food Stores◆	16.6	16.6	16.4	-----	200
Automotive Dealers	7.6	7.6	7.6	-----	-----
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.7	4.7	4.7	-----	-----
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.◆	3.2	3.2	2.8	-----	400
Eating and Drinking Places	34.1	34.4	34.2	-300	-100
Miscellaneous Retail	15.9	15.9	15.8	-----	100
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	31.5	31.3	31.5	200	-----
Depository Institutions	9.3	9.3	9.3	-----	-----
Services	165.6	165.5	163.3	100	2300
Hotels & Other Lodging◆	5.3	5.3	5.3	-----	-----
Business Services	29.3	28.8	29.2	500	100
Auto & Misc. Repair◆	5.5	5.6	5.5	-100	-----
Amusement & Recreation	7.2	7.2	6.9	-----	300
Health Services	52.8	52.6	51.8	200	1000
Educational Services	14.8	15.1	14.4	-300	400
Social Services	15.6	15.8	15.4	-200	200
Government	60.2	60.5	60.3	-300	-100
Federal	10.5	10.5	10.6	-----	-100
State	17.7	17.7	17.6	-----	100
Local	32.0	32.3	32.1	-300	-100
Education◆	17.9	17.9	18.8	-----	-900
Non Education◆	14.0	14.4	13.3	-400	700

◆ Publication of these industries is not approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Establishment Employment, Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in Rhode Island

	EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
	Net Change					Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 01	Jul 01	Aug 00	Jul 01	Aug 00	Aug 01	Jul 01	Aug 00	Aug 01	Jul 01	Aug 00
MANUFACTURING	70.6	66.3	72.5	4300	-1900	40.2	39.7	40.5	12.16	12.20	12.13
DURABLE MFG.	46.4	43.6	47.7	2800	-1300	40.0	39.8	40.4	11.98	12.00	11.91
Lumber/Furniture	2.7	2.7	2.7	-----	-----	41.1	41.4	39.9	11.80	11.81	12.00
Stone-Clay-Glass	0.8	0.5	1.0	300	-200	40.6	39.4	41.5	13.91	13.86	13.82
Primary Metals	3.9	3.7	4.0	200	-100	41.3	40.5	40.3	12.90	12.88	12.72
Fabricated Metals	8.1	7.0	8.6	1100	-500	40.0	38.6	40.3	11.35	11.21	11.38
Nonelectrical Mach.	4.1	4.1	4.3	-----	-200	38.5	39.4	39.8	13.61	13.61	13.60
Electrical Mach.	5.9	5.8	5.6	100	300	41.2	41.6	40.2	11.47	11.45	11.57
Trans. Equipment	3.6	3.6	3.3	-----	300	41.9	41.0	40.0	14.42	14.42	14.38
Instruments	5.3	5.3	5.6	-----	-300	37.0	38.9	40.6	12.65	12.67	12.61
Jewelry-Silverware	9.0	7.9	9.6	1100	-600	39.8	38.6	41.4	10.57	10.53	10.42
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.0	3.0	3.0	-----	-----	38.6	39.6	39.5	11.62	11.62	11.38
NONDURABLE MFG.	24.2	22.7	24.8	1500	-600	40.5	39.7	40.5	12.49	12.58	12.54
Food Beverage	2.9	2.8	2.7	100	200	39.8	41.8	43.2	11.48	11.47	11.52
Textiles	6.1	5.0	6.4	1100	-300	41.2	38.4	40.7	10.92	10.83	10.81
Apparel	0.8	0.8	0.9	-----	-100	36.8	39.4	38.4	9.29	9.31	9.19
Paper Products	2.0	1.8	2.0	200	-----	39.7	39.3	37.8	12.10	12.07	12.04
Printing-Publishing	4.9	4.8	5.2	100	-300	39.6	38.7	40.0	16.56	16.56	16.52
Chemical Products	2.3	2.2	2.2	100	100	40.8	41.2	41.2	14.04	14.09	13.80
Rubber Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	-----	-----	38.5	38.7	40.7	12.98	12.98	12.93
Plastics Products	4.3	4.4	4.4	-100	-100	41.8	40.6	40.6	13.38	13.21	13.37
Leather Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	-----	-100	38.9	39.4	41.5	8.35	8.36	8.35

** Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding.
Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures.

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.5 Percent in August

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These gains overshadowed losses in Wholesale-Durable Goods (-400) and Restaurants (-100). Transportation & Public Utilities employment was up 1,000 over the year. In August 2000, there was a labor dispute at Verizon Communications, which resulted in a temporary loss of over 1,000 jobs. Government employment was down by 100 over the year and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate remained even. The Manufacturing sector posted an annual decline of 1,900 jobs. The largest factory cutbacks occurred in Jewelry/Silverware (-600), Fabricated Metals (-500), Printing-Publishing (-300), Instruments (-300) and Textiles (-300). These losses overshadowed gains in Electrical Machinery (+300) and Transportation Equipment (+300).

Rhode Island Job Highlights – (Over the Month, Unadjusted Figures)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 3,900 over the month, due to the seasonal rebound in Manufacturing employment. Typically, the August job total reflects the return of factory workers following the July vacation closings.

Manufacturing - The Manufacturing sector registered a gain of 4,300 jobs over the month as factory workers returned to their jobs following the traditional factory closings. Fabricated Metals, Jewelry/Silverware, and Textiles each reported gains of 1,100 jobs.

Finance, Insurance and Real Estate - Employment in this sector increased by 200 over the month. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate was one of only two sectors reporting non-seasonal monthly gains.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Aug 01	Jul 01	Aug 00	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	177.5	177.5	172.8	2.7%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Services - Services employment was up by 100 over the month. Job gains in Business Services (+500) and Health Services (+200) offset losses in Educational Services (-300), Social Services (-200) and Automotive and Miscellaneous Repair (-100).

Trade - Employment in Trade was down 200 over the month due to a loss of 300 jobs in Restaurant employment. While some modest gains were observed in Building and Garden Supplies and General Merchandise stores, employment in all other Retail Trade segments remained even. Wholesale-Durable Goods reported a loss of 100 jobs.

Contract Construction - Contract Construction employment remained even with 21,500 jobs.

Government - Public sector employment decreased by 300 jobs due to a decline in municipal government employment. Federal and State employment was unchanged over the month.

Providence netWORKri Job Fair a Smashing Success

(Continued from Page 1)

Companies Attending the netWORKri Job Fair:

7-Eleven	Fleet	Pinkerton Security
A & H Manufacturing	Gateways to Change	RI Bureau of Investigation
American Arbitration	General Dynamics	Shaw's Supermarkets
Blackstone Valley Security	K-Mart	Spherion
C.C. Business Corp.	Leviton Manufacturing Co.	Subway
Chelo's	Lowe's	Swarovski
Childcare Connection	Marriott Hotel Providence	Talent Tree
Colony Personnel	Neighborhood Health Plan of RI	The Greysmith Companies
Cumberland Farms	Paetec Communications	TJX Company
CVS Pharmacies	Pawtucket School Lunch Program	US Postal Service
		Women & Infants Hospital

For more information on upcoming state-wide job fairs and recruitments and how you can participate, log on to www.networkri.org.